

John Donelson, Jr., January 13, 1820, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN DONELSON, JR.

State of Alabama, January 13, 1820.

Some time in the month of December Eighteen hundred and Seventeen, a company was made up in the town of Nashville, for the purpose of purchasing lots in the town of Pensacola; said company consisted of the following persons (viz) James Jackson senr., James Jackson Junr., John Jackson, John McCrea, John C. McLemore, John H Eaton, Thomas Childress and John Donelson Junr. and I John Donelson Junr. was chosen by said company to go on to Pensacola and make the purchases; previous to my going I applied to Major Genl. A. Jackson to get letters of introduction to some person or persons in Pensacola, being then in a delicate state of health I told him if the climate agreed with me that I would wish to remain there for some time, and if Pleased with the country, would want to make some purchases of lots in Pensacola, he replied that he would give me a letter of introduction to the Govenor, and made out one accordingly, which I delivered to the Govenor of Pensacola upon my arrival at that place.

Having been informed that Col. William P. Anderson¹ had obtained a copy of said letter through some intention of endeavouring to injure the character and standing of Genl. Jackson, that the truth may be known and that Justice may be done to Major Genl. A. Jackson, I therefore depose, set forth, and declare that the said letter was written through motives of friendship alone, and by special request, and not through any interested motives, so far as comes within my knowledge; and that the above named eight persons are the only ones that I have ever known as being originally concerned in said speculation,

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and that it was set on foot by James Jackson senr. and John H. Eaton and that the probabilities then held out rested entirely upon the negotiations which were then about to take place with the Spanish Government; and that at the time I set out I had no knowledge of a campaign into Florida nor received no such information untill the evening before I left Pensacola which was sometime in the month of February 1818. I do further depose, set forth, and declare, that I do not believe that Genl. Jackson is or ever has been either directly or

1 Colonel 24th Infantry 1812–1815.

indirectly interested in said speculation or that he is or ever was either directly or indirectly to receive any profit or advantage from said speculation; and that he did not advance me any funds for the purpose of purchasing property in the Floridas either Jointly or individually sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of January 1820

2 This statement is supported by the affidavits of James Jackson, jr., and Thomas Childress. Jackson MSS., dated Jan. 12, 1820.

Hugh Campbell J. P [Seal] For Lauderdale County Alabama State